

previous chapter. That contradiction may well have proceeded from the duality of his nature, to which reference has been made more than once. However, in the novelist's later years the writer never observed any particular trace of the curious practices recorded by Dr. Toulouse. He had at least largely rid himself of them. The only sign he gave of arithmomania while he was in England was to count the women's hairpins which he saw littering the streets when he took his walks abroad; but he did that, he explained, to occupy his mind when he was alone and because he was struck by the vast number of hairpins which Englishwomen contrived to lose. Once or twice, too, in conversation he spoke of his luck, but people often do that without putting any particular faith in luck. In England he had certainly relinquished the practice of fingering things or setting them in particular positions before he left a room, and he gave no sign that he was haunted by any fear of death. Of that, on the occasions when he was ill, he spoke quite calmly, though, in the spirit of a man who held that when one died it was for ever. At various times he had given some attention to spiritualism, but had found no little imposture. In it, and nothing, said he, had convinced him of the survival of the individual soul.

Throughout the summer of 1902 he remained at MMan, correcting further proofs of "V^ritd," and

making a few  
preparations for "Justice," which was to have  
been the last  
of his "fivangiies." In August he wrote half a  
dozen times  
to Vizetelly respecting the translation of "  
V6rité" and its  
publication in England and America, Such  
business letters  
are of little interest, however, to the general  
public. It may  
just be mentioned that he said on one occasion,  
"Times are